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JOURNAL OF

THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Published Quarterly by the Society at Springfield, Illinois.

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Applications for membership in the Society may be sent to the Secretary of the Society, Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, Springfield, Illinois.

Membership Fee, One Dollar-Paid Annually.

Life Membership, \$25.00

Vol. VIII.

APRIL, 1915.

No. 1.

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MAY 13-14, 1915

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Illinois State Historical Society will be held in the Supreme Court room in the Illinois State Supreme Court building at Springfield, Thursday and Friday, May 13-14, 1915.

As the Legislature is in session, the Senate Chamber in the Capitol building in which room the annual meeting of the Historical Society is usually held, is not available.

Chief Justice Cartwright of the Illinois Supreme Court has kindly consented to allow the Historical Society to use the beautiful rooms in the Supreme Court Building.

The annual address before the Society will be delivered on Thursday evening, May 13th by Rabbi Emil G. Hirsch of Chicago. The subject of the annual address is Historical Thinking.

At the conclusion of Dr. Hirsch's address, a reception will be held.

The program of exercises for the annual meeting is as fol-

lows:

Thursday Morning, May 13, 1915, 10 O'clock.

A Group of Stories of American Indians: The Silver Covenant Address:

Chain; The Story the Medals Tell; Shabona's Ride. Miss Lottie E. Jones, Danville, Illinois.

Address: Illinois in the Civil War.

Dr. Charles B. Johnson, Champaign, Illinois.

Address: The Relation of Illinois Railroads to the Passage of the Kansas-

Nebraska Act.

Professor Frank E. Hodder, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

Thursday Afternoon, 2:30 O'clock.

Address: Lake Michigan's Illinois Coast.

Mr. J. Seymour Currey, President Evanston

Historical Society, Evanston, Illinois.

Songs:

Mrs. Grace Fish Partridge.

The Old Confederate Prison at Rock Island, Illinois. Address:

Mr. Sherman W. Searle, Editor Rock Island

Union, Rock Island, Illinois.

Address: Old Yellow Banks.

Mr. James Gordon, Oquawka, Illinois.

Duden and his Critics. Address:

Miss Jessie J. Kile, University of Illinois. Thursday Evening, 8:00 O'clock.

Quartette:

Illinois.

Annual Address: Historical Thinking.

Rabbi Emil G. Hirsch, Chicago.

Songs:

Mrs. Albert Myers.

Reception.

Friday Morning, 9:00 O'clock.

Directors' Meeting in the Office of the Secretary of the Society.

10:00 O'clock: Business Meeting of the Society in the Supreme Court Room.

Reports of Officers. Reports of Committees. Miscellaneous Business. Election of Officers.

Friday Afternoon, 2:30 O'clock.

Address:

Jesse W. Fell.

Miss Frances Morehouse, Normal, Illinois.

Address: The Banker-Farmer Movement for a Better Agriculture and Rural

Life.

Mr. B. F. Harris, Champaign, Illinois.

Songs:

Mrs. Gary Westenberger.

Address:

Indian Treaties Affecting Lands in the Present State of Illinois.

Mr. Frank R. Grover, Evanston, Illinois. Friday Evening, 8:00 O'clock.

.Address: The Life and Services of Adlai E. Stevenson.

President John W. Cook, Northern Illinois State Normal School, DeKalb, Illinois.

Songs:

Mrs. Salzenstein.

Address:

The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Henry R. Rathbone, Chicago.

Songs:

Master Corydon Bradley.

THE CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL BUILDING

At this time it does not appear likely that an appropriation for a Centennial Memorial Building can be secured at this session of the General Assembly though it is probable that an appropriation will be made for the purchase of land to be used as the site for the building.

This appropriation, it is believed, will be made contingent upon the raising of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) Dollars by the citizens of Springfield. This last named sum to be used as part of the fund for the purchase of the site. Leading citizens of Springfield express themselves as confident that this requirement will be promptly met.

THE STATE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

A joint resolution has been introduced in the General Assembly asking a continuance of the Centennial Commission. The Commission was created by the last General Assembly and has made plans for the State's Centennial Anniversary It is to be hoped that the legislature will enable it to carry the work to a successful conclusion. There will be but one more regular session of the General Assembly (the Fiftieth General Assembly, which convenes in January, 1917). before the Centennial year. The importance of the Centennial celebration and the magnitude of the plans for its observance require great labor, considerable time and a wise expenditure of money. There are many plans which require time to properly develop and which if postponed until 1917 will probably fail altogether. For these reasons it is essential that the present general assembly make provision for the work.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION The Semi-annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association will be held in New Orleans, May 1915.

THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL EXHIBIT IN THE ILLI-NOIS BUILDING AT THE PANAMA-PACIFIC EXPOSITION AT SAN FRANCISCO.

Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, Secretary of the Illinois State Historical Society under the direction of a committee of the Illinois Commission to the Panama-Pacific Exposition, of which Hon. N. Elmo Franklin is chairman, prepared for the Exposition an exhibit of material illustrative of the life of Abraham Lincoln. This exhibit has been placed in the Lincoln Memorial room in the Illinois State building at the Exposition, and has already been visited by many thousand persons. It is the only exhibit in the Illinois building and it is attracting much attention.

DEDICATION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE BUILDING AT THE PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPO-SITON, SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY 26, 1915.

There was a strong gathering of present and past sons and daughters of Illinois Friday afternoon, February 26, 1915, for the dedication ceremonies of the building erected by the State as its contribution to the Panama-Pacific International Expoposition.

Many were the encomiums pronounced on the edifice, its furnishings and attractive features, which include a Lincoln memorial room of great interest, and a splendid organ and recital hall on the second floor.

The building is of buff plaster finish, with pale green trimmings. It is square, with a center court of palms and flowers, and is three stories in height. On the ground floor are a theatre, reception room, writing, lounging and meeting rooms and the Lincoln memorial room.

Mrs. Oglesby, widow of Illinois' famous Governor, Richard J. ("Dick") Oglesby, came for the dedication with her daughter, Miss Felicite, and her son, John G. Oglesby, former lieutenant governor of the Prairie State, and one of the commissioners to this exposition, and secretary of the commission.

The dedicatory address was made by the Rev. F. W. Clampett, D.D., rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, who, when on a visit to Springfield, Illinois, discovered that he and Governor Dunne had been fellow students at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

For more than an hour Clarence Eddy rendered an organ recital that charmed a large and appreciative audience.

The dedication ceremonies were held in the sunshine. Immediately preceding Justice Henry A. Melvin's opening words, a large band of North American Indians, mounted and in paint and feathers, happened to parade past along the Avenue of the States, almost appropriately, it seemed to all sons and daughters of Illinois, remembering the history of Fort Dearborn, at the mouth of the Chicago River, and the terrible incident that transpired there.

Justice Melvin, himself a loyal son of Illinois, introduced Charles C. Moore, president of the exposition, who surprised his hearers with something that, he said, surprised him. He had learned that there are 110,000 former citizens of Illinois now living within fifty miles of San Francisco. He stated that Illinois leads all the eastern states as a source for supplying California with good citizens, New York being second with 90,000, and Ohio third with 84,000. He eulogized the Columbian World's Fair held by Illinois at Chicago in 1893; he told of the many things that have been said all around the world of Illinois on account of that exposition, and he expressed a hope that in years to come the peoples of the civilized world will speak as kindly of California.

"If the life of Lincoln, best beloved though adopted son of Illinois, had been spared to the nation," said United States Commissioner William Bailey Lamar, impressively, "I believe he could have charmed away the political bitterness be-

tween '65 and '76, that cost the nation so much before it was overcome. Illinois not only has done its share in supplying the other States with good citizens, but has proved itself a magnet for much of their best material for making great national characters. Thus, Lincoln always is associated with Illinois, although born in Kentucky; and General Grant, although born in Ohio, always is identified with Illinois."

Mayor Rolph spoke of the great help San Francisco had received from Illinois in its early fight for congressional recognition of the city's exposition plans and particularly of the backing the city received from Chicago's foremost men.

"And it is with personal pleasure that I turn and find at my right on this occasion Andrew M. Lawrence, of the Illinois State Commission," remarked the mayor. "We who had to do with San Francisco's fight in Washington well remember how much Mr. Lawrence helped us to bring this beautiful exposition to our city.

"And we have not forgotten either the fact that he was with us on the firing line when San Francisco sent us back to Washington on the Hetch Hetchy water fight. With such men as Mr. Lawrence on its commission, Illinois confirms our belief that she is even with San Francisco in spirit and can always be counted on for assistance in our efforts to advance our city's welfare.

"Illinois" was sung, with piano accompaniment, by Miss Birdie Mae Reed.

Charles C. Moore presented the exposition's commemorative bronze plaque to Adolph Karpen, chairman of the Illinois commission, who gave it into the keeping of Guy Cramer, resident representative of the Illinois commission, and after acknowledging it with thanks, made an address on behalf of the State.

"It is a privilege for Illinois to contribute an integral part to this world exposition, and it is a further privilege to be one of those from Illinois present on this occasion," said Chairman Karpen. "May this temple of that great State be a home to its sons and daughters while this exposition lasts. May it play its fitting part in the gathering of the nations, in

the celebration of the completion of the canal, and in the congress of the sciences and arts that here surround us."

"Dreams of Illinois" was rendered by Lowell M. Redfield, and the presentation of a great American flag, the gift of California to Illinois, was made by Mrs. Viola S. Murphy. It will hang in the main lobby of the Illinois building.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN; PROCLAMATION BY GOVERNOR E. F. DUNNE

In a proclamation issued by Governor Dunne, the entire State is urged to observe the semi-centennial of the death of Abraham Lincoln on April 15. The custodians of all public buildings are directed to fly the flag at half mast on that day and the public schools are asked to observe the day in a fitting manner.

The Governor's proclamation is as follows:

"Upon April 15, 1915, falls the semi-centennial of the death of Abraham Lincoln. The few years immediately preceding his untimely death were made the test of the nation's life. With clear vision, patriotic devotion, intellectual integrity, and a broad humanity he guided this nation through the travail of the Civil War.

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

"Fifty years have passed since he met a martyr's death but the spirit of Lincoln has prevailed and the passing of the years has witnessed the application of this great principle: 'Malice toward none, charity to all,' in our national life. We are a united people enjoying the blessing of a continued peace and prospering in the application of the deathless principles for which Lincoln lived and for which he gave his life.

"It would seem entirely fitting that a universal, solemn observance of this semi-centennial should be had and especially so in his home State, Illinois.

"Now, therefore, I, Edward F. Dunne, governor of the State of Illinois, do urge upon the citizens of this State the solemn observance of this day in commemoration of the martyred dead.

"I direct that on this day the national flag be placed at half staff on all public buildings of the State, and urge that the day be fittingly observed in the public schools, to the end that the children of this generation may have the better brought to their minds the facts of our national history and implanted a deeper appreciation of their priceless heritage."

AN IMPORTANT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE McLean County Historical Society

The McLean County Historical Society was organized March 19, 1891, almost a quarter of a century ago, and is one of our largest and oldest County Historical Societies. published three very creditable volumes of its transactions, possesses a valuable historical museum, and is accumulating an important Historical Library, peculiarly rich in whatever pertains to the local history of McLean County and During its lifeof its different villages, cities and townships. time of twenty-four years, it has maintained regularly, quarterly meetings, besides occasional meetings at important historical points in McLean County. It possesses enough papers which have been read at its different meetings, to furnish several more volumes of local history. Most of these papers have been published in the daily newspapers of Bloomington and all of them have been widely read. We are informed by Mr. J. H. Burnham, who was one of the Society's organizers, and who, by the way, assisted in the organization of our State Society in 1899, who has always been one of our most active workers, that the McLean Society has recently taken up some new lines of activities. These are of such importance that we believe some description will be of very material assistance to workers in other local Historical Societies.

The Board of Supervisors of McLean County, realizing the educational importance of the Society's work, provided it with a room about forty feet square in their new fire-proof court house, erected in 1901, and the possession of this room has been the means of gathering a splendid historical museum, filling every nook and corner of the Society's quarters. The

county not only furnishes the heating, lighting and janitor service, but appropriates five hundred dollars annually toward the expenses of the organization. This assistance is given by virtue of a law which authorizes county boards to grant assistance to Societies of historical research. The Society's collections include, implements illustrating spinning, weaving, and pioneer household handicraft, together with the earliest farming tools and agricultural implements, etc. The walls are wholly covered with portraits of the pioneers, and soldiers of the Mexican and Civil wars, while there are nearly a dozen cases filled with Indian and archaeological specimens, miniatures, portraits, old letters and other valuables too numerous to mention, but which can be partly imagined from this brief enumeration.

The Society possesses a copy or copies of all local historical volumes pertaining to McLean County, and almost from its beginning has, through its first secretary, Mr. E. M. Prince. and for the last few years, through its custodian, Mr. Milo. Custer, accumulated many hundreds of newspaper clippings of important local events, biographies, etc., which will be of great value to future historians. These clippings, like entire files of newspapers, are practically worthless until indexed. Probably there is not a file of newspapers in this State, outside of Chicago which has ever been so indexed as to bring its contents to the eyes of inquiring historians. The McLean County Society is now engaged in indexing all of the early county histories and biographies, a work of great importance in itself, and in addition, is now indexing the large number of newspaper clippings above referred to, placing them in large scrapbooks where they are firmly pasted and thus preserved in shape for instant reference.

During the last two months it has reorganized itself in strict conformity with the incorporation law of this State for societies or organizations, not for profit, and its valuable collections, together with a small endowment, will now become the nucleus, it is hoped for still greater activities in the future.

A payment of twenty dollars secures a life membership; a payment of five dollars will constitute a person a contributing

member for six years; while the yearly payment is one dollar, as this amount is so small, there will be, it is hoped, several hundred added this year to the small number of members now on its roll. It must not be forgotten that the Society has been maintained very largely by county aid and by liberal voluntary assistance, for which its members are duly grateful.

The members of the McLean County board of supervisors, with the elected county officers, together with the officers of all county historical societies in the adjoining counties, are now made ex officio members of the Society. Logan, Champaign and Woodford Counties possess such societies, and it has been learned that Livingston and DeWitt Counties are likely to take similar steps very soon. It is the intention of some of the members of the McLean Society to see if it will not be practicable to offer to the societies now formed and others yet to be organized in the vicinity the use of its many newspaper clippings and other historical references, in order to be of all possible assistance in the local historical field. It would be interesting if such a neighborly offer shall result in a league of local Historical Societies similar to what is proving to be of such interest and importance in the state of Pennsylvania.

The success of the McLean County Society appears to have been largely owing to the liberality of the Bloomington Pantagraph and the Bloomington Bulletin in publishing in full most of the papers which have been read at the Society's quarterly meetings, and also to its location in a fire-proof room in the McLean County Courthouse.

DEATH OF A NONAGENARIAN

CHARLES S. CHRISMAN, OF ROCK, CALLED TO REST SATURDAY, JANUARY 1915

(Herald, January 21, 1915, Golconda, Illinois.)

Charles S. Chrisman, born September 14, 1820, died January 16, 1915, aged 94 years, 4 months and 2 days.

In the year 1841 Mr. Chrisman was married to Mary E. Simpson. To this union six children were born, Martha, now Mrs. Philips, Reuben H., John M., Sarah, now Mrs. Parmley, G. C. and W. S., all of whom survive.

He made a profession of faith in Christ at the age of 20 years, lived a devoted Christian life almost 75 years and passed away full of hope and strong faith in God.

Mr. Chrisman was a member of the 6th Illinois Cavalry, belonged to Company G, Captain John M. Boicourt's company, and did hard service in Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky.

In the death of Mr. Chrisman, Pope county loses its oldest, and one of its most highly respected citizens.

Funeral services were held at Mt. Zion church, conducted by Elders G. W. Parmley and James A. Baker, in the presence of a large concourse of friends.

EDWARDS COUNTY CENTENNIAL.

Edwards County, Illinois, one of the most interesting counties in the State, from an historical point of view, celebrated on March 19, 1915, at Albion, the one hundredth anniversary of its organization as a county. Hon. Kent E. Keller, chairman of the Committee on the State-wide Observance of the State Centennial, of the Centennial Commission, delivered a splendid address, replete with historical information and suggestive of work for the approaching State Centennial celebration. Other prominent speakers made addresses.

Prof. Elbert Waller, superintendent of schools of Albion, was active in arranging for the celebration, as was Walter Colver, H. J. Strawn and others.

The program was carried out as planned in the following letter issued by Professor Waller:

Edwards County Centennial Celebration, albion high school, march 19th, 1915.

Dear Fellow Citizens:

It has become a common expression, in fact so common that people scarcely notice it, that Edwards County is a hundred years old—yes, a hundred years,—a full century. Numbered in years, that is a long, long time, but when we consider the monumental changes that have been made since our forefathers came to this "Wilderness of prairie," we scarce dare dream of such progress in the hundred years next to come. When we "count time by heart throbs" we feel that the history of "Old Edwards" is a wonderful story.

We have planned to have an Edwards County centennial celebration at the Albion high school on the afternoon and evening of the 19th of this month, and want to make it a county-wide movement. Competent people are delving into the history and traditions, much of which would otherwise be lost. They will give us the result of their labors on that day. Every school of the county has been invited to come en masse and help to make it a day of education, inspiration and patriotism. Six members of the State Legislature have already promised to be here. Among them is Senator Keller, chairman of the Committee on State-wide Celebration of the Illinois Centennial Commission. He is a very entertaining and most eloquent speaker. State Superintendent Blair is expected to be present. There will be plenty of good music.

Among other things will be a collection of old relics that tell their own story of how the people lived in the "good old days." We would be glad to have all the old relics we can get for the occasion and people are asked to send or bring them for exhibition during the day. They will be properly cared for, the most valuable ones being locked in glass cases.

People who were in the county before 1845 may with propriety be called pioneers; we extend to them a special invitation. They are requested to ask at the door for a pioneer badge.

Everybody is invited. That includes you. Bring your dinner and supper with you if you wish. There will be opportunity for you to eat it in the building. Let us make this a "Muster Day" and do honor to those who came into the forests of the "Illinois Country" and carved out our destiny, in the days when "Wilderness was king," and made it possible

for us to be "surrounded with all that exalts and embellishes civilized life."

In the name of the Albion Board of Education, their corps of teachers and the students of the high school, I invite you to be with us and help make this day a landmark in the history of Edwards County.

Very cordially yours,

ELBERT WALLER,
Superintendent Albion Schools.

GIFTS TO THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND SOCIETY.

The Directors of the Illinois State Historical Society and the Trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library acknowledge these gifts and thank the donors for them.

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Braddock Boulder. Historical Address at Dedication of the Braddock Boulder, Upper Malboro, Md., Sunday, November 10, 1907. By Marcus Benjamin, Ph.D., n. d. 14 pp. 8vo. paper. Gift of Mr. C. C. Magruder, Society of Colonial Wars, Upper Marlboro, Md.

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